

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ABF-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07
NEA-10 AID-05 /109 W
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R 150033Z DEC 76
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1686
INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UNGA, EGEN
SUBJECT: 31ST UNGA: SECOND COMMITTEE: RESOLUTION ON DEBT
PROBLEMS ON DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

REF: A) USUN 5792; B) STATE 297602 C) STATE 299817
D) STATE 301281 E) UN DOC A/C.2/31/L.46/RV 2

1. SUMMARY: DESPITE EFFORTS BY US DELEGATION, EC, AND SWEDEN TO HEAD OFF THE LDC RESOLUTION AND SUBSTITUTE A PROCEDURAL RESOLUTION IN ITS PLACE, THE SUDANESE CAME UP WITH A REVISED RESOLUTION ON DEBT WHICH BASICALLY DELETED PARA FOUR OF THE EARLIER VERSION TO WHICH WE OBJECTED STRONGLY (REF A). THE REVISED RESOLUTION CARRIED BY A VOTE OF 92 IN FAVOR, 1 "NO" (US), AND 28 ABSTENTIONS. SEVERAL COUNTRIES WHICH ABSTAINED MADE STATEMENTS FOR THE RECORD INDICATING THEIR CONCERN FOR THE SUBSTANCE AND TIMING OF THE RESOLUTION. END SUMMARY.

2. ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, US REP (CANNER, TREASURY), THE NETHERLANDS (REPRESENTING EC), AND FRG DELEGATES MET WITH THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SUDAN, A CO-SPONSOR OF THE RESOLUTION. WE ARGUED FORCEFULLY THAT THE RESOLUTION REPRESENTED SIMPLY A CONDENSED VERSION OF THE G-19 POSITION TABLED IN PARIS AND COULD NOT
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BE ACCEPTED. EVEN WITH DELETION OF OPERATIVE PARA 4,

US AND OTHERS ARGUED THAT THE RESOLUTION WOULD PREJUDICE POSITIONS OF WESTERN PARTICIPANTS IN CIEC (G-8) AND THAT INTRODUCTION OF THE RESOLUTION IN THE GA WAS ILL-TIMED, GIVEN THE DELICATE HIGH-LEVEL DISCUSSIONS IN CIEC.

3. WHILE POINTING OUT THAT WE WOULD HAVE PREFERRED NO RESOLUTION AT ALL, US, WITH SUPPORT OF DUTCH, ATTEMPTED TO NEGOTIATE A PROCEDURAL RESOLUTION ALONG LINES OF REFTEL C. AFTER TAKING THE US TEXT BACK TO OTHER CO-SPONSORS, SUDANESE INDICATED THEY COULD NOT ACCEPT IT AND WOULD TABLE THEIR RESOLUTION IN THE SECOND COMMITTEE WITH PARAGRAPH 4 DELETED--A STEP THEY TERMED A MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE MOVE" IN THEIR REMARKS INTRODUCING AMENDED TEXT.

4. THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS WERE MADE IN EXPLANATIONS BEFORE THE VOTE:

5. NETHERLANDS (ON BEHALF OF EC): THIS WAS NOT THE TIME TO SEEK NEW IMPETUS OR INITIATIVES; ALL DELEGATIONS WERE AWARE OF DETAILED DISCUSSIONS AT HIGH LEVEL GOING ON IN PARIS. THEREFORE, IT WAS NOT APPROPRIATE TO DISCUSS DRAFT IN DETAIL IN UNGA. FURTHER, AS THE RESOLUTION WAS REFLECTIVE OF THE G-19 POSITION, IT SHOULD BE APPARENT WHY IT WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO ALL.

6. SWEDEN: SWEDISH POSITION ON DEBT WAS WELL KNOWN, BUT GOVERNMENT OF SWEDEN DOES NOT FIND IT POSSIBLE TO GO ALONG; ACCEPTANCE OF TEXTS WOULD RISK COMPROMISING NEGOTIATIONS GOING ON ELSEWHERE. ALSO, TO THE EXTENT TEXT IMPLIES RESCHEDULING COMMERCIAL DEBTS, IT GOES BEYOND WHAT IS REASONABLE. SWEDISH DELEGATION ALSO NOTED ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGE (WHICH OTHER WESTERN DELS FOUND UNACCEPTABLE) AS FOLLOWS: "URGES CIEC, AS REGARDS THE INDEBTEDNESS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, TO REACH AN EARLY AGREEMENT WITH REGARD TO

A) IMMEDIATE AND GENERAL MEASURES, AS AN EXTRAORDINARY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND ONE-SHOT OPERATION, TO ALLEVIATE THE EXISTING ODA DEBT BURDEN OF THE LDC'S, MSA'S AND OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN NEED:

B) FEATURES AND PROCEDURES FOR FUTURE OPERATIONS RELATING TO DEBT PROBLEMS OF A NON-ACUTE NATURE WHICH HAMPER DEVELOPMENT:

C) FEATURES FOR FUTURE OPERATIONS RELATING TO ACUTE DEBT CRISIS SITUATIONS, INVOLVING DEFAULT OR IMMINENT DEFAULT ON DEBT SERVICING."

7. JAPAN: GA SHOULD NOT PREJUDGE A PROBLEM BEING CONSIDERED BY OTHER BODIES DESIGNED TO DEAL WITH IT.

8. AUSTRALIA: QUESTIONED APPROPRIATENESS OF RESOLUTION WHILE CONSULTATIONS GOING FORWARD ELSEWHERE; CIEC IS THE APPROPRIATE FORUM FOR DEBT DISCUSSIONS; AUSTRALIA VIEWED THE RESOLUTION AS DISRUPTIVE TO ON-GOING DISCUSSIONS IN PARIS.

9. PAKISTAN: THE PAKISTANI DELEGATE OFFERED SOME MINOR REWORDING, INCLUDING OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 3, WHICH DID NOT AFFECT SUBSTANCE. HE NOTED USUAL DISAPPOINTMENT WITH THE VIWS OF US, EC, AND SWEDEN, SINCE, HE SAID, TEXT CALLS FOR NOTHING MORE THAN "URGENT RESOLUTION OF PROBLEM OF DEBT OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES." HE SAID COMPARED TO TEXT OF MANILA DECLARATION, RESOLUTION SHOWS THAT G-77 "HAVE COME A LONG WAY."

10. MYERSON DELIVERED A FULL STATEMENT PURSUANT TO INSTRUCTIONS. (TEXT BEING POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT (IO/DHP/CHAVEAS AND CANNER TREASURY).

11. IN THE VOTE TAKEN, 92 WERE IN FAVOR, WITH 1 "NO" (US) AND 28 ABSTENTIONS, INCLUDING ALL WEO'S AND ASTERN BLOC COUNTRIES. AN FRG REP TOLD US PRIVATELY THAT BONN WOULD HAVE FAVORED A NEGATIVE VOTE ON THE MERITS OF THE RESOLUTION BUT DECIDED TO ABSTAIN TO PRESENT A POSITIV VOTE BY THE NETHERLANDS AND HENSE ASSURE A UNIFORM EC-9 POSITION.

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Message Attributes

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